

THURSDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Dropping off bag of rice
& beans at Stanford Settlement
overheard volunteer after
phone conversation say
"She doesn't want presents,
just food, but she lives
outside our area."
Outside it was raining.
In whose jurisdiction
are the hungry I
wondered walking
back to car.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES

Meditating in Stott's backyard
hear across half a dozen
fences a man yell, "Out!
Out!" to wild peacock
raiding his garden.

After thoughtful silence
a mockingbird starts
its well rehearsed
repertoire of tunes.

HI HO GAME

Today our arms ache.
Yesterday we threw
three boxes of Hi Hos
to seagulls at Bodega Bay.
Standing high up on
dunes bordering beach
we'd wave to gulls
get them to circle then
flying a cracker straight
up into their beaks.
A wonderful game but
costly. This morning at
toilet I couldn't reach
to wipe without pain.

LEVIS FOR MEN

Today bought new pair
of Levis designed
to stretch over ass
and bellie bulges.
When a kid
there was only
shrink to fit.
Mom used to patch
knees when I
broke thru.
Hated to outwear
or outgrow a pair.
Didn't feel like me
in any other pants.

HUNGRYMAN

Trying to satisfy
a persistent inner
craving he nearly
ate drank & fucked
himself to death.
As a child
he ate dirt.
Older & sedate he
feeds on fantasies
& goes hungry.

GEORGE F.

Foggy's going to
retire mid-term.
History teacher is
exactly what he
wants to be but
since heart attack
job's too tough.
Only 57 won't get
full retirement but
jokes about Caribbean
cruises & sexy girls
to disguise heartache.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands CA